AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS/LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 23, and 25 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.- 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein the SMRT co-repressor comprises a repression domain having

a) less than about 83% identity with a Sin3A interaction domain of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 255 to 312 of SEQ ID NO: 11;

b) less than about 57% identity with repression domain 1 of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 1 to 312 of SEQ ID NO: 11;

c) less than about 66% identity with a SANT domain of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 312 to 668 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

d) less than about 30% identity with repression domain 2 of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 736 to 1031 of SEQ ID NO: 11.

4. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or a peptide portion thereof, or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein the SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 5.

5. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or a peptide portion thereof, or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein said **SMRT** co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 4.

6.- 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or a peptide portion thereof, or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, ~~and~~ wherein said polynucleotide encodes ~~a polypeptide having~~ **said SMRT co-repressor or peptide portion thereof, and wherein said SMRT co-repressor or peptide portion thereof has** at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 7.

10. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 9, which has a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 6.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or a peptide portion thereof, or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, ~~and~~ wherein said polynucleotide encodes ~~a polypeptide having~~ **said SMRT co-repressor or peptide portion thereof, and wherein said SMRT co-repressor or peptide portion thereof has** at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 9.

13. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 12, which has a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 8.

14. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ **A first** isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or a peptide portion thereof, or a second isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor **or peptide portion thereof** is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein said first polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with nucleotides 1 to 3094 of SEQ ID NO: 4;

(b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with nucleotides 1 to 3718 of SEQ ID NO: 6;

(c) a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with nucleotides 1 to 2801 of SEQ ID NO: 8; and

(d) polynucleotides complementary to the sequence of (a), (b), or (c),

provided that the polynucleotide does not contain a sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 11.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A first polynucleotide according to claim 14, wherein said first polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) nucleotides 1 to 3094 of SEQ ID NO: 4;

(b) nucleotides 1 to 3718 of SEQ ID NO: 6;

(c) nucleotides 1 to 2801 of SEQ ID NO: 8; and

(d) polynucleotides having at least 80% sequence identity with the complementary sequence of (a), (b), or (c).

17. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 10, comprising nucleotides 1 to 8388 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

18. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising nucleotides 1 to 8561 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

19. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 4, which is operably linked to a second nucleotide sequence.

20. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 19, which encodes a fusion polypeptide comprising the SMRT co-repressor operably linked to a DNA binding domain of a transcription factor.

21. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 4.

22. (Previously presented) A host cell containing the polynucleotide of claim 4.

23. (Currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide, comprising at least 15 nucleotides, that ~~can hybridize specifically~~ **hybridizes, under suitable stringency conditions,** to the polynucleotide of claim 4, but ~~neither~~ **does not hybridize** to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO: 11 ~~nor~~ **or** to a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 1031 to 2517 of SEQ ID NO: 5.

24. (Previously presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 23, wherein the polynucleotide encodes at least five contiguous amino acids of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

amino acids 720 to 745 of SEQ ID NO: 5;

amino acids 716 to 742 of SEQ ID NO: 7; and

amino acids 497 to 523 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

25. (Currently amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 23, which ~~can hybridize specifically~~ **hybridizes, under suitable stringency conditions,** to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 7, but **does** not **hybridize** to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO: 9.

26.- 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 1 to 7465 of SEQ ID NO: 8.